

Definitions of Frequently Used Terms

Allah - "The Name of Majesty, and the "Supreme Name."¹ Arabic speakers of all faiths use the word "Allah" to mean "God".²

In the present study, "Allah" will be used when speaking of "god" of the Islamic faith, and "God" will be used when referring to the God whom Jesus Christ claimed to be His Father.

Dome of the Rock - The Dome of the Rock is located on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. It was built by Caliph 'Abd al-Malik in the Muslim year 72 (691-692AD).³ According to archaeologist, Leen Ritmeyer, the huge rock that is within the Dome is the foundation stone for the Ark of the Covenant, within the Holy of Holies of the 1st century, Jerusalem Temple. The Mishnah (Yoma 5:2) refers to this bedrock platform as the "Foundation Stone."⁴ The Dome is constructed so as to enclose the Rock upon which Muhammad is said to have ascended to heaven for his appointment with Allah.

Companions - Muhammad's first "council" of ten men. They are referred to as the "*Companions*." Their names: Abu Bakr Siddiq, U'mar-e-Farooq, Uthman Bin Affaan, Ali Ibn Abi Talib, Abdur-Rahman bin Aawf, Sad ibn Abi Waqqas, Said ibn Zayd, Abu Ubaydah bin Jirrah, Talhah ibn Ubaydullah, Zubayr bin Al-Awam.⁵

Hadith - Literally, "speech," "report," "account." The Hadith are collections of the sayings of the Prophet.⁶ Hadith are traditions relating to the deeds and utterances of the Prophet as recounted by his Companions.⁷ The Hadith (along with the "Sunnah") are secondary to the Qur'an in importance. Each Hadith amounts to a narration from the life of the prophet as related by a Companion, as opposed to what the prophet said.⁸ The Hadith has been compiled by four different Islamic scholars over Islam's history. The compilation considered to be the most authentic is that of Sahih Al-Bukhari.⁹

Hidden Imam - Muhammad ibn Hasan, born 872AD, was the son of the 11th Shiite Imam, Hasan ibn Ali. When Muhammad ibn Hasan was born, his father, the 11th Imam, hid his son from public view (to protect him from the Sunnis); only a few Shiites were even aware of his son's existence.¹⁰ At his father's death when Muhammad Hasan was only seven, and by Divine Command, he went into *permanent hiding*, an event Shiites (Twelve-ers) refer to as "occultation."¹¹ Shiites (Twelve-ers) believe that Muhammad ibn Hasan, the Twelfth Imam, whose body was never found, *never died*. He still exists today, still in hiding, after some 1,300 years. He will continue to live in hiding until Allah decides the moment he will reappear. Shiites (Twelve-ers) refer to him as "*the Hidden Imam*." The date of his disappearance is 939AD.

Islam - Literally, "surrender," or "submission." Islam is a monotheistic religion (worship of one God) "originating with the teachings of Muhammad, a 7th century Arab religious and political figure. It is the second-largest religion in the world today, with an estimated 1.4 billion adherents, spread across the globe, known as Muslims. Linguistically, Islam means submission, referring to the total surrender of one's self to Allah."¹² Muslims believe the religion was revealed to the Prophet Muhammad between the years 610 - 632 AD by the Angel Gabriel, and that it is the last of the divine revelations mankind will receive before the end of the world.¹³

Jihad - Holy War. "A Divine institution of warfare to extend Islam into the *dar al-harb* (the non-Islamic territories which are described as the "abode of struggle," or of disbelief) or to defend Islam from danger. Adult males must participate if the need arises, but not all of them, provided that a "sufficient number" take it up."¹⁴ The Qur'an states:

- Surah 9:5-6: 'Kill those who join other gods with Allah wherever you may find them.'
Surah 4:76: 'Those who believe fight in the cause of Allah.'
Surah 8:12: 'I will instill terror into the hearts of the Infidels, strike off their heads then, and strike off from them every fingertip.'¹⁵

Author and historian Bat Ye'or states, "*The aim of jihad is to subjugate the peoples of the world to the law of Allah, decreed by his prophet Muhammad. . . . As the jihad is a permanent war, it excludes the idea of peace but authorizes temporary truces related to the political situation.*"¹⁶ Bat Ye'or quotes this often quoted statement made by the Prophet on his deathbed: "*Two religions should not co-exist within the Arabian peninsula.*"¹⁷

Mahdi - Shiites believe that the 12th Imam went into hiding (occultation) in 939AD. Up until this date, the Hidden Imam made contact with his followers through four successive "deputies," but only on rare occurrences.¹⁸ Subsequent to 939AD, there has been no contact by the Hidden Imam with anyone, deputy or otherwise.¹⁹ When the Hidden Imam returns, he will return not as the Hidden Imam or the Twelfth Imam but as "al-Mahdi,"²⁰ a term equivalent in meaning to "Messiah" for Christianity.

Muhammad, The Prophet - The name of the Prophet of Islam. Muhammad was born in 570AD. His father was Abd Allah, son of Abd al-Muttalib, and grandson of Hisham, the founder of the Hashimite clan of the Quaraysh. "Muhammad is a descendant of Ishmael and Abraham, and heir to God's promise to Hagar: "*Arise lift up the lad, and hold him in thine hand for I will make him a great nation.*" (Genesis 21:18)"²¹ "Muhammad was an Arab religious, political and military leader who founded Islam and the Muslim community. He united the tribes of the Arabian Peninsula into a federation of allied tribes with its capital at Medina. According to Islamic traditions, Muhammad began receiving revelations from Allah from the age of 40, delivered through the angel Gabriel over the last 23 years of his life. Muslims do not regard him as the founder of a new religion but as the restorer of the original monotheistic faith of Adam, Abraham and other prophets, whose messages, according to some, had become misinterpreted or corrupted over time by the 'People of the Book.'²²

Muslim - Literally, "one who has surrendered to Allah." "The word "Islam" (surrender, submission) is the verbal noun corresponding to the adjective Muslim (surrendered, submitted)."²³ A Muslim then is one who submits to Allah; a follower of Islam.

People of the Book - Christians and Jews are referred to by Muslims as "People of the Book," by virtue of Islam's reliance on both Old and New Testaments for much of the Qur'anic material. The difference for Muslims is that they accuse the Jews and Christians of corrupting the scriptures to their advantage. The Qur'an states,

"You People of the Book! Why do you clothe truth with falsehood and conceal the truth, while you

have knowledge? . . . There is among them a section who distort the Book with their tongues; you would think it is part of the Book but it is not a part of the Book.” Surah 3:71, 78.

Qur'an - Literally, the “reading” or the “recitation.” The holy book of Islam. The Qur'an was revealed to the Prophet Muhammad (who could not read or write at the time) beginning in the year 610AD, while in meditation in a cave of Hira (in the modern day “Hejaz” region of Saudi Arabia²⁴) during the month of Ramadan.²⁵

Seveners - Within Shiite Islam there are two primary sects – “Seveners” (comprising 10% of Shiite Islam) and “Twelveers”(comprising 90% of Shiite Islam). Seveners trace their rightfully guided Imams through Ismail’s son, Muhammad bin Ismail, whom they believe should be the rightful seventh Imam. Hence their name, “Seveners” (or “Ismailis”).²⁶

Shari’a - Literally, the “way to the watering hole.” The organization and structure of theocratic law for Muslims.²⁷ “The canonical law of Islam as put forth in the Qur’an and the Sunnah and elaborated on by the four orthodox schools of Sunni Islam.

Shi’a (or Shiite) - The second of two predominant sects of Islam, the other being Sunni, comprising 10-15% of Islam. Shi’a are followers of Ali, the cousin and son-in-law of Ali, the husband of Fatima, the daughter and only child of Muhammad who survived to adulthood to bear children.²⁸

Sunnah - The spoken and acted example of the Prophet. The Sunnah includes what the Prophet approved, allowed, or condoned. The Sunnah is the basis of the legal code of Islamic law (Shari’a), and is authoritative in rulings among Islamic states. It depicts the life of Muhammad and offers examples for ethics and living.²⁹ The Sunnah is followed by Sunni.

Sunni - The largest of two predominant sects of Islam, the other being Shiite, comprising approximately 80%-85% of Islam. Sunni are the followers of “Sunnah” or “customs.”³⁰

Twelver - Within Shiite Islam there are two primary sects – “Seveners” (comprising 10% of Shiite Islam) and “Twelveers”(comprising 90% of Shiite Islam). Both of these sects distinguish themselves from the other by the particular Imam each considers to be the “rightful successor” to the Prophet. The Seveners consider Ismail, the elder son of Ja’far, to be the rightful successor as sixth Imam. However, Ismail died before his father’s death, and Seveners believe that Ismail’s son, Muhammad bin Ismail, should be the rightful seventh Imam. Hence their name, “Seveners” (or “Ismailis”).³¹ Seveners terminate the line of Imams with Ismail, the seventh Imam.³²

The Twelveers believe that Jafar designated his younger son, Musa, as the seventh Imam and that the true line is through Musa not Ismail, believing that Ismail died before he was designated by his father. The Twelveers are by far the largest group of Shiite Muslims. Twelveers constitute ninety percent of the modern population of Iran and fifty-five to sixty percent of the population of Iraq. Twelver Shiites are the majority in Iran, Iraq, Azerbaijan and also have substantial populations in Turkey, Pakistan, Lebanon, Syria, India, Afghanistan and Bahrain.³³ The Twelveers continue Musa’s line through the Twelfth Imam, Muhammad ibn Hasan, born 872AD, the son of the 11th Imam. The line of imams for Twelveers ends with this Imam, who is the twelfth Imam for Twelve-ers, who went into “hiding” without a living descendant. For Twelveers, there is

not a 13th Imam. The Twelfth Imam is considered the “Hidden Imam” who lives in perpetuity, in hiding, until Allah calls him to reappear in the Last Days as *al-Mahdi*.³⁴

Endnotes - Frequently Used Islamic Terms.

1. Cyril Glasse', *The Concise Encyclopedia of Islam*, p. 34.
2. Available at <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Allah> at 2-16-2007.
3. Grabar, p 59.
4. Randall Price, p 211-212.
5. Available at <http://www.anwary-islam.com/index.htm> at October 2, 2006.
6. Ergun Mehmet Caner and Emir Fethi Caner, *Unveiling Islam*, p. 95.
7. Cyril Glasse', p. 140.
8. Ergun Mehmet Caner and Emir Fethi Caner, *Unveiling Islam*, p. 95.
9. Ibid., p. 96.
10. Ibid.
11. Ibid.
12. Available at <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam> at 2-16-2007.
13. Cyril Glasse', *The Concise Encyclopedia of Islam*, p. 192.
14. Cyril Glasse', *The Concise Encyclopedia of Islam*, p. 209.
15. Robert Spencer, editor. *The Myth of Islamic Tolerance, How Islamic Law Treats Non-Muslims*, p 14.
16. Bat Ye'or, p 40.
17. Bat Ye'or, p 39.
18. Twelvers refer to this period of limited contact between the Hidden Imam and his deputies as the "minor" or "lesser" occultation. See <http://www.ummah.net/khoei/imam.htm>.
19. Twelvers refer to the period of no contact with the Hidden Imam (that began in 939AD) as the "major" occultation. See <http://www.ummah.net/khoei/imam.htm>. This period continues until the present day.
20. Said Amir Arjomand, *The Shadow of God and the Hidden Imam*, p. 71.
21. Cyril Glasse', *The Concise Encyclopedia of Islam*, p. 278.
22. Available at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prophet_Muhammad at 2-16-2007.
23. Ibid.
24. Available at <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hira> at 2-16-2007.
25. Cyril Glasse', p. 228.

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26. Available at <http://www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ismailis>

27. Ibid., 163.

28. Ergun Mehmet Caner and Emir Fethi Caner, *Unveiling Islam*, p. 163-164. .

29. Ergun Mehmet Caner and Emir Fethi Caner, *Unveiling Islam*, p. 95.

30. Ergun Mehmet Caner and Emir Fethi Caner, *Unveiling Islam*, p. 163.

31. Available at <http://www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ismailis>

32. Timothy R. Furnish, *Holiest Wars, Islamic Mahdis, Their Jihads, and Osama bin Laden*, p 5.

33. Available at <http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/intro/islam-ithna-ashari.htm>.

34. Need footnote.